

# S O M E R E M A R K S O N T H E

## QUAKERS *written Paper, Presented by them to Members of Parliament; Humbly repre- sented to their Christian Consideration*

**Y**esterday I received from a Member of the Honourable House of Commons, a written Paper, which the Quakers have privately delivered to the Members thereof; in which are these words; *Viz.*

**First,** *The Quakers are wholly dissatisfied with the Words [or pretended Marriages] which are added in the Exception, &c.*

**Remark.** As what the Lords have granted them, by their Amendment, is more than the Protestant Dissenters ask; **SO** it is Humbly Prayed, That this Honourable House will agree with the Lord's Amendment, and not let them on the Level with the Church Establish'd; for nothing less will satisfy them. Is it not enough, if not more than enough, their Principles duly considered, That they are thus exempted from the 100*l.* Fine, and thereby distinguished with Marks of Favour above all Protestant Dissenters? Again;

**Secondly,** *Now (say they) to render the Quakers Marriages pretended Marriages, may be considered as a great disadvantage in many Respects, and be made a Reproach against them, &c.*

**Remark.** Then let them conform to the Law in that Case Made and Provided; as other Dissenters do; by Publishing their Banns in our Churches, or taking Licences out of the Bishops Courts; as they have done for their Meeting-Houses; Registering their Children; Burying in Woollen only. There at first were pretended to be with them, Cases of Conscience, but the several Penalties soon removed their Scruples, as I have Noted; so that it is not Conscience, but Humour, with a design to be uppermost, thus to pick and chuse what Laws to obey, and what Laws to reject. Moreover As to the words *pretended Marriages* being made a Reproach to them: Have they not reproached all Ranks, Degrees, and Orders of Men? Have they not called all Kings, and consequently Queens, Apostates, Spiritual Egyptians, &c. Have they not called our Parliaments The Beast that carries the Whore, the false Church? Affirming, as Prophets, That a Parliament chosen by most Voices, were not like to Act for God, or the good of the People. Have they not called our Bishops and Ministers, Monsters, Witches, Devils, Sodomites, Antichrists, Baal's Priests; yea, comparing them to the very **Insects** and **Reptiles** of the Earth? Have they not reproached the Fathers of the Council of Nice, calling them a company of Apostates, Ignorant Rabbies, and followers of the Beast? That the Doctrine of the ever Blessed Trinity is a damnable Doctrine; That our Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, is the Cup of Devils, and Table of Devils; That the Holy Scriptures are Death, Dust, Serpent's-meat, Beastly Ware, Humane, and that what we learn from thence

is Human? All which, with abundance more, in the like Terms of Contempt and Reproach, I stand ready to prove out of their Books to their Faces: and yet without any Retraction, or sign of Repentance. But on the contrary, tell us in what Part I erre. For their Principles are the same now, as when they were Fifty Years ago, without any change, or variation. Again;

**Thirdly,** *That if they are not allowed to be exempted from the said Exception, they will be obliged to conform to the Church, &c.*

**Remark.** That the amendment made by the House of Lords, is not Coherent, which is but a softer word for Nonsense, as, with submission to better judgments, great Presumptions. But again;

**Lastly,** Should they be humoured by both Houses, it would but make them Proud, and insolent, Triumphant over the Government, as they did in the Case of their Solemn Denunciation of the Bill for the better governing of the Jews, &c. **SUBJECTING** to the Testimony of all of them, being called **SOBJECTED** Ministers, &c. as in my former Papers I have Noted. I remember that one of their Teachers, *Thomas Dabney*, by name, *Bartholomew*, once said, *that if the Quakers were not exempted from the said Bill, they would be obliged to conform to the Church, &c.* This do they Boast and Triumph both over High and Low. And I am sure, that if they were humbly prayed, That the House of Commons would give with the Lord, in their Amendment, which is Humbly submitted to their Christian Consideration.

Whom I ask, if they will conform to the Lord's Church, or to the Lord's Law, or to the Lord's Commandment, I am not to be quoted; but a great many of our Quakers, to avoid the Penalty, would submit to take a Licence; several having already been Married by our Ministers; many of Dissenting among them are sensible it is no part of that Religious Worship which they perform to God; that being Preserved to Protestant Dissenters by the Act of Toleration, but only an Obedience which St. Paul has strictly enjoyn'd to be paid to Authority.



REMARKS

ON THE

QUAKERS' Written Paper

Privately given to Members  
of PARLIAMENT

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